

The Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies


An evaluation of naloxone provision in Ontario, Canada

2016

Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies


In June 2016, the Ontario Government introduced the **Ontario Naloxone Program for Pharmacies (ONPP)**, authorizing community pharmacists across the province to provide injectable naloxone kits to all Ontario residents free of charge

Why was this program implemented?



72,600
opioid-related deaths occurred in Canada and the United States in 2018 alone

>90%
of opioid-related deaths in Canada were accidental in 2018



Pharmacy-dispensed naloxone programs
can increase the availability of take-home naloxone kits for communities


In Ontario, between 2000 and 2018, opioid-related deaths increased by **400%**

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that quickly and effectively reverses the effects of an opioid overdose


2018

Policy Change


To improve access to naloxone, the ONPP was modified in March 2018 to: 1) include **intranasal naloxone**, and 2) remove the **requirement for individuals to present a valid health card** before being provided a naloxone kit




Pharmacy naloxone dispensing
increased by **65%** between February 2018 and May 2018



Increases
were seen in rates of dispensing among individuals receiving opioid agonist therapy, prescription opioids, and those with prior opioid exposure

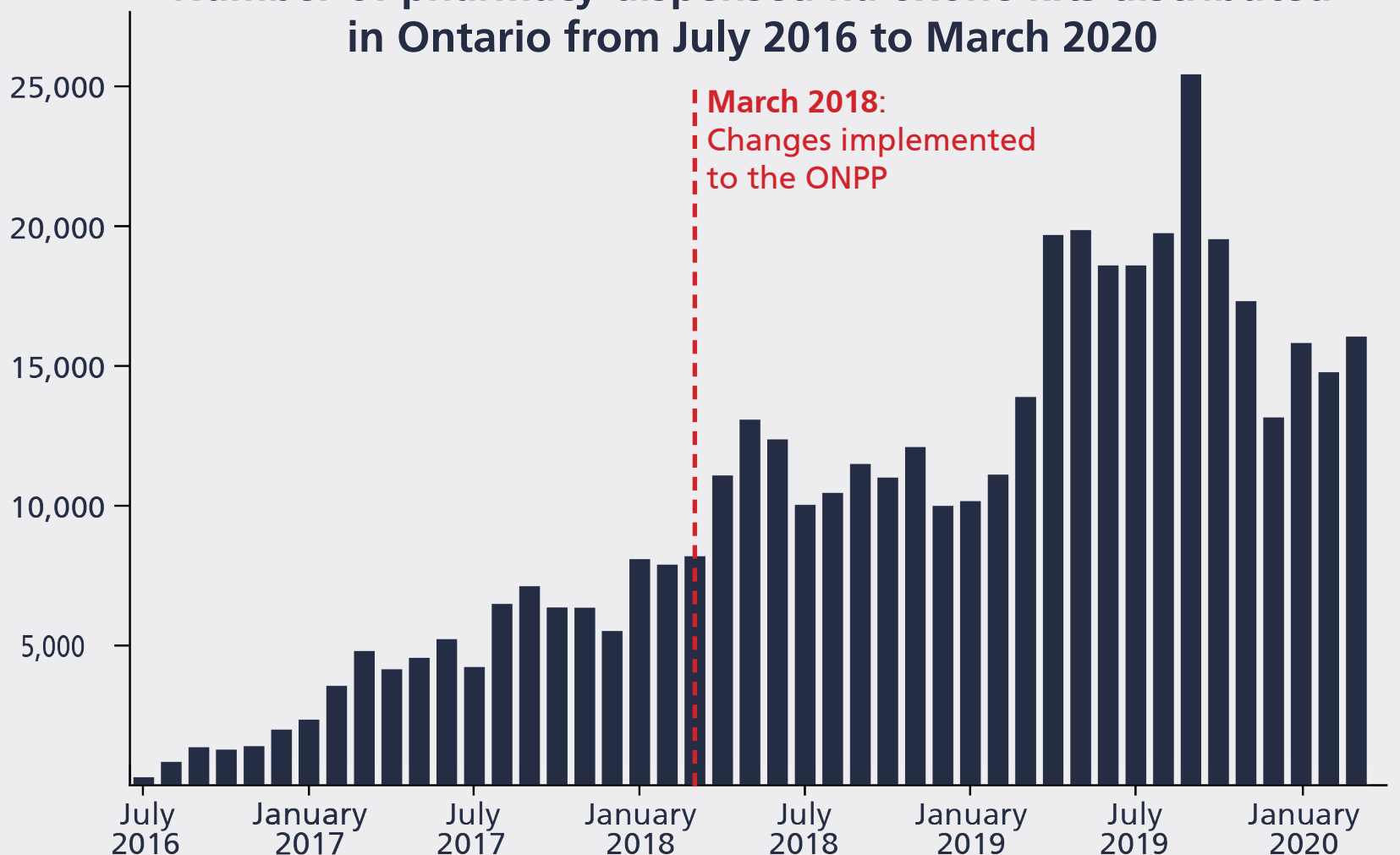


Health cards
were not presented to the dispensing pharmacist for **37%** of kits dispensed in March 2020



Intranasal naloxone
represented almost **73%** of all kits dispensed by March 2020

Number of pharmacy-dispensed naloxone kits distributed in Ontario from July 2016 to March 2020



Corresponding Author: Tara Gomes at tara.gomes@unityhealth.to

Antoniou, T., Martins, D., Campbell, T., Tadrous, M., Munro, C., & Leece, P. et al. (2020). Impact of policy changes on the provision of naloxone by pharmacies in Ontario, Canada: A population-based time series analysis. *Addiction*.

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